

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 2, 8 and 10 being independent. Claims 2, 8, and 10 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 4-7, 9, and 11-16 are allowed. Claims 1, 3-7 and 9 are amended herein to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. Claim 3 has also been amended to depend from Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Response to Specification Objection

The Examiner noted the use of the term "Acetylenol" in the application, stating that it should be capitalized and be accompanied by the generic terminology. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to capitalize the term and accompany it with the generic terminology "ethyleneoxide-2, 4, 7, 9- tetramethyl-5-decyne-4, 7-diol". Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Rejections

Claim 3 was provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over Claims 1-4 and 6-31 of copending Application No. 09/131,736. Claim 3 was also rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over Claim 16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,379,000.

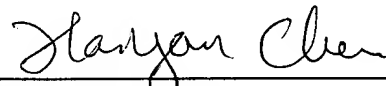
Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Koike et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,608,438). Claim 3 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (EP 0 588 241 A2).

Without conceding to the propriety of these rejections, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended Claim 3 to depend from Claim 1. As Claim 1 has been allowed, Claim 3 as amended is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that Claim 3 is allowable over the prior art of record. Applicants submit that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration, withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Haiyan Chen
Registration No. 43,539

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
JKD/HC